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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

18th October 2011

Dealer : West Vul : None	NORTH ♠ J 8 6 5 ♥ 10 9 6 ♦ Q J 6 4 2 ♣ 5	
WEST ♠ K 9 3 2 ♥ A K 4 ♦ 9 8 ♣ J 8 4 3		EAST ♠ 7 4 ♥ Q 3 2 ♦ K 10 7 3 ♣ K Q 10 7
	SOUTH ♠ A Q 10 ♥ J 8 7 5 ♦ A 5 ♣ A 9 6 2	

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 Club
X	1 Spade	1 NT	X
Pass	2 Diamond	X	Pass
Pass	XX	Pass	2 Heart
Paa	Pass	X	All Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♦

While rummaging through our files, we came across a hand played by U.S. internationalist Chip Martel in the 1982 World Pairs Olympiad, which we wanted to publish but it got overlooked.

More than 20 years later we still like it, so here it is.

Because they were playing weak no trump opening bids, in fourth seat, Martel elected to open one club, and after a highly competitive auction, bought the hand at two hearts doubled, which brought forth a diamond lead to the queen, king and ace.

Because West had passed originally, Martel decided he was likely to hold the king of spades to justify his takeout double.

If he chose to cash the ace of clubs and ruff a club, then finesse the queen of spades, the defenders could win, draw three rounds of trumps and cash two clubs for a one-trick set.

A touch of larceny was called for: Martel led the ten of spades from hand!

West eyed it for some time, but decided to duck. Declarer needed no more. He cashed the ace of clubs, ruffed a club, came back to hand with the ace of trumps and ruffed another club.

That brought his total to eight tricks — two spades, two diamonds, two club ruffs, the ace of clubs and one trump on power!

A well-earned top score

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